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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2269

INFO RUEHEE/ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

RUEHLB/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE 0519

RUEHAK/USDAO ANKARA TU IMMEDIATE

RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE

RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC//USDP:PDUSDP/ISA:EUR/ISA:NESA/DSCA//

RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC//J-3/J-5// IMMEDIATE

RHMFIS/HQ USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE IMMEDIATE

RHMFIS/HQ USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL IMMEDIATE

RUEUITH/ODC ANKARA TU IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 001282

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/25/2017

TAGS: MOPS PREL PTER TU LE

SUBJECT: TURKEY: DIRECT LEBANESE REQUEST FOR AMMUNITION

COULD EXPEDITE ACTION

REF: A. MAY 23 CAGAN-WILSON EMAIL

1B. ANKARA 1259

1C. STATE 70499

Classified By: DCM Nancy McEldowney, reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

11. (C) On May 24, DCM and visiting TRANSCOM Commander Gen. Schwartz raised the LAF ammunition request with Deputy Chief of Staff GEN Ergin Saygun and J-4 Logistics Chief LTG Arslan.

We also notified the MFA Middle East Department and the Turkish General Staff (TGS) of the specific request for 105MM tank rounds. Both the MFA and TGS agreed to consider the request and Arslan confirmed the presence of 105MM tank rounds in the TGS inventory. DCM also spoke with Lebanese Ambassador to Turkey Georges Siam.

12. (C) Military officials have expressed some hesitation. DCHOD Saygun noted that this is a politically sensitive issue and expressed uncertainty about the availability of sufficient surplus ammunition, but, following our insistence on the importance and urgency of the matter, undertook to see what could be provided. Major General Kocak, TGS J-3, asked whether the Lebanese government had made a direct request of Turkey for this ammunition, echoing a colonel in the J-5 Agreements Department, who opined that the Lebanese should be making this request, not the United States.

13. (C) Given the urgency of the situation, we also contacted the Lebanese embassy to encourage a direct outreach to the Turkish government. Ambassador Siam agreed with this approach and subsequently advised us that he had contacted PM Siniora's office to recommend a direct GOL request to Turkey.

He expressed confidence that the PM would agree and expected that a message would be sent either through the Turkish Defense Attaché in Beirut or that he would be asked to submit a diplomatic note conveying the request.

14. (C) We will continue to press both the MFA and TGS for a positive response.

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<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/eur/ankara/>

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